



India Sourced ₹1.2 Lakh Cr Military Hardware in 2024-25: Rajnath

New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced that India sourced military hardware worth ₹1.2 lakh crore during the financial year 2024-25, marking a significant milestone in the country's push for self-reliance and modernization of its armed forces. Speaking at the inauguration of the 15th edition of the Indo-Pacific Defence Chiefs'

Conference in New Delhi, Singh emphasized that over 75% of the procurement was made from domestic sources, reinforcing the government's commitment to the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India) initiative.

"This achievement reflects our growing capability to meet defence requirements through indigenous production,"



Singh said. "India is not only strengthening its own security architecture but also emerging as a reliable defence partner in the Indo-Pacific region."

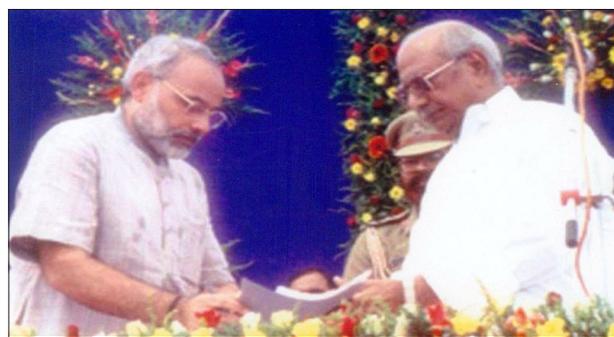
The procurement includes advanced weapon systems, surveillance platforms, communication equipment, and combat support technologies for the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Key acquisitions re-

portedly include next-generation drones, missile systems, and upgrades to existing platforms. Singh also highlighted India's expanding role in regional security cooperation, noting that the country has signed defence export agreements with over 85 nations and is actively participating in joint exercises and strategic dialogues across the Indo-Pacific.

PM Modi begins 25th year as head of govt, thanks citizens for 'continuous blessings'

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday began his 25th year as the head of a government, asserting that improving the lives of people and contributing to the progress of this great nation have been his constant endeavour. He noted in a post on X that he had taken oath on this day in 2001 as Gujarat's chief minister for the first time.

"Thanks to the continuous blessings of my fellow Indians, I am entering my 25th year of serving as the head of a Government. My gratitude to the people of



India," Modi said. He added, "Through all these years, it has been my constant endeavour to improve the lives of our people and contribute to the progress of this great nation that has

nurtured us all." After spearheading the BJP to victory in three consecutive assembly polls in Gujarat, he has led the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance .

Have no regret: Lawyer who threw shoe at CJI

New Delhi: Lawyer Rakesh Kishore, who attempted to hurl a shoe at Chief Justice of India (CJI) BR Gavai on Monday, said that he does not regret his action.

Speaking to ANI on Tuesday, Rakesh Kishore said that he was hurt by the CJI's remarks while dismissing a plea seeking restoration of the structure of Lord Vishnu in the Javari temple in Khajuraho.

He said, "I was hurt. A PIL was filed in the Chief Justice's court on September 16. Justice Gavai made fun of it by saying 'Go

pray to the idol to restore its head'. While we see that when there are cases against other religions like Railways' land in Haldwani was occupied by a particular community. When an attempt was made to remove this, the Supreme Court put a stay on it three years ago. In Nupur Sharma's case, the court said, 'You have ruined the atmosphere'. When there are matters related to the Sanatan dharma, be it Jallikattu or the height of the Dahi Handi, Supreme Court's orders have hurt me."

Modi to host Starmer, inaugurate airport

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate the much-anticipated Navi Mumbai International Airport later this week, marking a major milestone in India's infrastructure development. The inauguration ceremony will coincide with the official visit of United Kingdom Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who will be hosted by Modi in Mumbai for bilateral discussions and strategic engagements.

The Navi Mumbai International Airport, developed by Adani Airports, is expected to significantly ease air traffic congestion in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region and serve as a key aviation hub for western India. With state-of-the-art terminals, advanced cargo facilities, and sustainable design features, the airport is projected to handle over 60 million passengers annually once fully operational.

PM Modi's visit to the site will include a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony, followed by an address highlighting India's progress in transportation, logistics, and urban connectivity. The airport is part of the government's broader push to modernize infrastructure under the Gati Shakti initiative. UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer's presence in Mumbai marks the first leg of his official India tour.

No cracks in Uddhav-Raj Alliance, says Sanjay Raut

Mumbai: Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut has confirmed that discussions between Uddhav Thackeray and Raj Thackeray have reached an advanced stage, signaling a strong possibility of an alliance between Shiv Sena (UBT) and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) ahead of the upcoming civic elections.

Raut emphasized that the bond between the Thackeray cousins has deepened both personally and politically. "Whatever anyone says, the dialogue and relationship between Uddhav Thackeray and Raj Thackeray have become very strong. Even if someone tries their hardest to break it, the talks have progressed much further. There is no turning back

now," he said. The two leaders met twice on Sunday first at a family event and later at Uddhav's residence, Matoshre where they reportedly held political discussions. Raut described the potential alliance as one forged with "heart and mind," adding, "This is not just a political alliance. It's made with tannam-dhan (body, mind, and wealth)." While speculation grows about MNS joining the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), Raut clarified that the current talks are specifically between Sena (UBT) and MNS for local body elections. "Only Raj can answer whether MNS will formally join the MVA," he said, noting that MNS maintains good relations with MVA leaders.

PM slams Bengal govt; Mamata blames Modi for Flood Politics

PM urges BJP workers to aid rescue, relief efforts ongoing

New Delhi: A political confrontation erupted between the Centre and the West Bengal government following an alleged mob attack on two Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders in the flood-ravaged Dooars region of north Bengal. Prime Minister Narendra Modi strongly condemned the incident, calling it a reflection of the "absolutely pathetic" law and order situation in the state, while Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee accused the Prime Minister of politicizing a natural disaster.

The incident occurred in Jalpaiguri's Nagrakata area, where BJP MP Khagen Murmu and Siliguri MLA Sankar Ghosh were reportedly assaulted while visiting flood and landslide-affected areas.



Videos shared on social media showed Murmu bleeding from his face and nose, prompting outrage from BJP leaders and supporters. Ghosh alleged that the two were "kicked, punched, and pelted with stones" by locals allegedly aligned with the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC). In a post on X (for-

merly Twitter), Prime Minister Modi expressed concern over the attack. Governor C.V. Ananda Bose also visited affected areas, while BJP leaders including Samik Bhattacharya, Manoj Tigga, Jayanta Roy, and Raju Bista were seen distributing relief materials and inspecting camps.



Minister Sohtun urges swift resolution of Assam-Meghalaya border talks for peace

Shillong: Minister Sosthenes Sohtun has urged the Assam and Meghalaya governments to expedite the second phase of border talks to bring clarity and peace to residents living along the disputed boundary. As a member of the regional committee overseeing the negotiations, Sohtun emphasized that people residing in border areas want to



live peacefully without disturbances from either side. The border dispute between Assam and Meghalaya dates

back to 1972, when Meghalaya was carved out of Assam. Of the 12 areas of difference identified over the years, six were resolved in March 2022 through a Memorandum of Understanding signed in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. These included Tarabari, Hahim, Gijang, Boklapara, Khanapara-Pilingkata, and Ratachera.

Nagaland University creates flexible supercapacitor for EVs, wearables

Kohima: Scientists at Nagaland University have developed a flexible supercapacitor that could revolutionize energy storage for wearable electronics, electric vehicles (EVs), and renewable energy systems. The device is based on cobalt-doped molybdenum diselenide (MoSe₂), offering high energy density and

mechanical durability. The research team, led by Dr. Vijeth H and research scholar Pewe-u Marhu from the Department of Physics, used a simple hydrothermal method to synthesize the material. Their study is the first to compare tungsten, vanadium, and cobalt doping in MoSe₂, with cobalt proving to be the most effective.

The supercapacitor delivers an energy density of 34.54 Wh/kg and remains stable over 10,000 charge-discharge cycles, even after repeated bending and twisting. This makes it ideal for use in health-monitoring wearables, robotics, and EVs, where flexibility and long-term performance are critical.

Khandu calls for HIV, drug crackdown

Itanagar: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Friday expressed concern over the growing number of HIV-positive cases in the state, and stressed the need for urgent and effective steps to curb its spread, combat ignorance, and end social ostracism. In a post on X, Khandu said the state's collective resolve was to "strengthen awareness, prevention, and care measures to protect every life and build a compassionate, informed society."

AKTK honours meritorious students at annual programme

Dimapur: The Ao Kaketshir Telongjem Kohima (AKTK) held its annual Kaketshir Anogo Den Lokti Senden 2025 under the theme "Omen-Lepa Reprangshiang, Arangshishiang aser Aramesoang (Reflect, Realign and Arise)" (Reflect, Realign and Arise) at Molu Ki, Merhültetsa, Kohima. According to DIPR report, Dr. B.M. Sunep Imchen, director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Nagaland, graced the occasion as the main speaker. Congratulating the meritorious students, Dr. Im-



chen reminded them that academic excellence must translate into becoming productive citizens. "We need to change our mindset and thinking, sharpen ourselves to be more effective, and rise with purpose," he said. He urged the youth to reflect on their identity and purpose, stating that growth begins with self-awareness.

BPF chief Hagrama Mohilary open to rejoining NDA, sets condition for BJP

Kokrajhar: In a significant political development ahead of the 2026 Assam Assembly elections, Bodoland People's Front (BPF) president Hagrama Mohilary has expressed openness to rejoining the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), provided the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) meets specific conditions.

Speaking to reporters on Friday, Mohilary stated that the BPF is willing to reconsider its alliance with the NDA if the BJP agrees



to restore political and administrative autonomy in the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR). He emphasized the need for greater representation of BPF leaders in decision-making

processes and called for renewed focus on regional development and tribal welfare. Mohilary's statement comes amid shifting political equations in Assam.

Zubeen death case will reach 'logical conclusion': Spl DGP

CID probes Mahanta for benami assets, financial crimes

Guwahati: The SIT, probing into the death of singer Zubeen Garg, on Friday interrogated three members of the organising team of North East India Festival (NEIF) with the Special Director General of Police Munna Prasad Gupta asserting that the case will reach 'its logical conclusion'.

The three who had accompanied Garg to Singapore to take part in the NEIF, where he died on September 19, have been remanded to 14 days' police custody, Gupta who heads the SIT told reporters here. Four people who had gone to attend the NEIF have been arrested so far in the case – the singer's manager Siddhartha Sharma and his musician Shekhar Jyoti Goswami, the festival organiser Shyamkanu Mahanta and singer Amritprabha Mahanta.



The arrested people are being interrogated, Gupta said. 'We will ensure that there will be no lapse on our part during the investigation,' the SDGP said.

The aim of the SIT is to ensure that the case 'reaches its logical conclusion,' he added. Gupta had earlier said that the investigations were 'proceeding on fast track'. Meanwhile, three members of the NEIF organising team – Pankaj Adhikari, Pritam Talukdat and Krishanu Das – were summoned by the SIT for interrogation. They, however, did not respond to questions from journalists.

Sharma and Mahanta were arrested in Delhi on

Wednesday morning in connection with the singer's death and were also remanded to 14 days' police custody. The two have been booked under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for murder, culpable homicide not amounting to murder, criminal conspiracy and causing death by negligence.

The CID has also initiated a separate probe against Mahanta for organised financial crimes and acquiring huge amounts of "benami" properties by money laundering. The Assam government had constituted a 10-member SIT to investigate the singer's death in Singapore due to drowning in the sea on September 19.

More than 60 FIRs were filed across the state against Mahanta, Sharma and several others.

OBASSC congratulates SSP cadets

Dimapur: The Old Boys Association of Sainik Schools, Nagaland Chapter (OBASS@NC), has congratulated cadets and ex-cadets of Sainik School Punglwa for their outstanding achievements in the UPSC NDA/NA (II) 2025 written examination, bringing pride to the school and the State of Nagaland.

OBASS@NC through its president Cadet H. K. Khulu and press secretary Cadet Deepak Chetri congratulated the following cadets for qualifying the exam— Cdt Cidibe Peter Mbung; Cdt Vide Paul Rhetso; Cdt Anshik Yadav; Cdt Sahil; Cdt Dev Dagar; Cdt Urjit Singh (ex-cadet); Cdt Gopaljee (ex-cadet); Cdt Golu Kumar (ex-cadet); Cdt Ish Dwivedi (ex-cadet); Cdt Nirbhay Kumar (ex-cadet) and Cdt Himanshu Kumar (ex-cadet). The association noted that their success reflects hard work.

Manipur Congress seeks probe into Assembly scam inquiry

Imphal: Opposition Manipur Congress on Friday demanded an impartial investigation into the recent allegations of massive scam involving crores of rupees in the Manipur Legislative Assembly.

Allegations of massive irregularities have surfaced against the Manipur Legislative Assembly, with recent reports in some sections of media alleging siphoning off of a fund amounting to Rs 29.22 crore in the name of developing pet fish feed, phumdis, wetlands, meetings, and other related projects in the Manipur Legislative Assembly complex. Claiming that an invoice linked to the sanction of Rs 29.22 crore to siphon funds for fish farming and other related initiatives was discovered, the opposition Congress demanded a parliamentary probe and punish those involved in the scam.

Addressing reporters at Imphal Congress Bhavan today, six times MLA and

former law minister Okram Joy Singh described it as highly unfortunate desecrating the sanctity of the legislative Assembly, the temple of democracy. It not only damages the reputation of the state Assembly but can be treated as blackening the image of the sitting legislators of the state Assembly, he said.

This scam has damaged the pride of Manipur, he added, urging the Speaker of the state Assembly to investigate by constituting a house committee.

If not, a judicial probe should be initiated, Singh said, asserting that the scale of the scam warrants scrutiny by the Supreme Court or the Manipur High Court, and, if required, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

India Today report alleges ₹7.72 crore Assembly spend on fish feed, fertilizers within weeks.



Vi Business launches IoT Innovation Lab with AWS and C-DOT to fuel enterprise growth

Mumbai: Vi Business, the enterprise arm of telecom operator Vi, in collaboration with Amazon Web Services (AWS) and the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), has launched the Vi Business IoT Innovation Lab to accelerate IoT-led enterprise transformation. The Lab will serve as a collaborative hub for designing, testing, and scaling industry-grade IoT solutions across connected vehicles, smart manufacturing, enterprise automation, BFSI, IT/ITES, logistics, retail, healthcare, utilities, and



smart city applications. Set up in Mumbai, the Lab offers demonstrations of connected vehicles, smart grids for energy optimization, real-time man-

ufacturing monitoring, and edge AI-driven IoT innovations. By leveraging Vi Business' connectivity, AWS's cloud and AI capabilities, and C-DOT's expertise in IoT standards, enterprises and start-ups can reduce costs, improve efficiencies, and bring solutions to market faster. Arvind Nevatia, Chief Enterprise Business Officer, Vi, said the Lab aims to transform India's IoT landscape, while AWS and C-DOT emphasized cloud integration and standard-compliant, secure data exchange.

IIM Shillong makes it to SBI Life's IdeationX 2.0 grand finale



Shillong: Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Shillong has secured a coveted finalist spot at SBI Life Insurance's IdeationX 2.0, a national-level innovation contest for India's top B-schools. The semi-final, held at Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), Bhubaneswar, saw IIM Shillong's team—Nimita Gupta, Nitika Bansal, and Sakshi Agarwal—emerge victorious against 40 teams selected from over 3,500 entries nationwide. The top eight teams, including participants from XLRI Jamshedpur, IIFT Kolkata, IIM Calcutta, XIMB Bhubaneswar, and KIIT Bhubaneswar, will now compete for the grand finale. SBI Life officials, including Ravindra Sharma, Chief of Brand, CSR and Corporate Communications, and Santosh Chacko, Zon-

al Director – East, praised the students' innovative ideas and highlighted the importance of youth-driven solutions to increase India's insurance penetration, currently under 4%. In Shillong, IIM Shillong's success reinforces the city's growing reputation as a hub for management talent and innovation. Local businesses and recruitment networks are increasingly looking to the city for fresh ideas, boosting opportunities for collaboration, talent acquisition, and investor interest in Shillong's knowledge-driven economy. With participation from over 30,000 students across India, IdeationX 2.0 emphasizes SBI Life's commitment to fostering innovation, nurturing young talent, and driving a digitally-forward and financially secure future for India.

Jaguar Land Rover Sales Drop



Mumbai: Tata Motors-owned Jaguar Land Rover posted a 17.1 per cent decline in retail sales and a 24.2 per cent decline in wholesale sales in the Q2 FY26, says a Reuters report. The significant sales decline for the United Kingdom's largest car manufacturer comes in the aftermath of a nearly six-week shutdown due to sophisticated cyber attacks.

Jaguar Land Rover's sales were impacted in all markets. However, the biggest effect of cyber attacks was seen in the United Kingdom. The company was already struggling this year, with a nearly 11 per cent quarterly sales drop in July, partly because of a temporary pause in shipments to the US after the Donald Trump administration imposed tariffs on all car imports. JLR CEO Adrian Mardell said, "In the first two months, our performance was robust and in line with our expectations, against the backdrop of the planned wind down of legacy Jaguar models and the impact of incremental US tariffs" Jaguar Land Rover said on Tuesday that some of its factories would restart manufacturing on Wednesday.

Nissan India reports 9.3% YoY sales growth in September, Magnite leads the charge

Guwahati: Nissan Motor India Pvt. Ltd. (NMI-PL) posted consolidated sales of 10,500 units in September 2025, a 9.3% rise from 9,629 units a year ago. Domestic wholesale stood at 1,652 units, while exports surged to 8,872 units, including a record 1,120 units to South Asia—the company's highest-ever monthly sales in the region. The sales momentum was driven by the GNCAP 5-Star rated New Nissan Magnite, supported by a segment-first 10-year extended warranty and festive-season price reductions of up to ₹1 lakh, following the government's revised GST slabs. The launch of the Magnite KURO Special Edition and a new Metallic Grey variant further boosted demand.



In Guwahati, Nissan dealers observed strong festive demand with a sharp rise in bookings for the Magnite range. Market watchers say Guwahati is emerging as a fast-growing hub for compact SUVs, as buyers in the Northeast increasingly prioritize safety, design, and affordability in their purchase decisions. Reinforcing its India commitment, Nis-

san announced upcoming launches of an all-new 7-seater B-MPV, a 5-seater C-SUV, and a 7-seater C-SUV. The automaker is also expanding its dealership network to 180 outlets by FY 2025-26 and 250 by FY 2026-27. The Made-in-India Magnite, exported to over 65 countries, remains central to Nissan's global "One Car One World" strategy.

LG Electronics India IPO to open on October 7; price band fixed at Rs 1,080 – Rs 1,140

Shillong: LG Electronics India Limited (LGEIL), the wholly owned subsidiary of LG Electronics Inc., has announced that its Initial Public Offering (IPO) will open on October 7, 2025, and close on October 9, 2025, with a price band set between ₹1,080 and ₹1,140 per equity share. Anchor investor bidding will take place on October 6, 2025. The IPO comprises an offer for sale of up to 101,815,859 equity shares of face value ₹10 each by its promoter. Investors can bid for a minimum of 13 equity shares and in multiples



thereafter. A ₹108 discount per share is being offered to eligible employees. The equity shares are proposed to be listed on both the NSE and BSE. The issue is being made through the Book Building process under SEBI regulations, with allocations reserved for QIBs, non-insti-

tutional investors, retail investors, and employees.

In Shillong, local investors and traders said LG's IPO has generated curiosity given the company's strong consumer base in electronics and appliances across the Northeast. Analysts note that increased disposable incomes and brand familiarity could see retail participation from Shillong's growing middle class. The IPO is being managed by Axis Capital, Citigroup, Morgan Stanley, J.P. Morgan, and BofA Securities, with KFin Technologies Limited as the registrar.

India cautions job seekers against fraudulent employment offers in Iran

Guwahati: The Government of India has issued a business-critical advisory to Indian nationals seeking overseas jobs, warning against fraudulent employment offers in Iran that have recently led to kidnappings and ransom demands. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) highlighted multiple cases where Indian citizens were enticed with promises of high-paying roles in Iran or onward placements in third countries. "Upon arrival in Iran, many of these individuals were kidnapped by criminal groups, with ransom demands made for their release," the ministry said in its statement. The advisory stated that visa-free entry for Indians is granted by Iran strictly for tourism, not for employ-

ment. "Any agents promising visa-free entry into Iran for employment or other purposes may well be in connivance with criminal gangs," the MEA cautioned. In Guwahati, employment consultants and recruitment firms noted that the advisory is particularly relevant for Assam's youth, many of whom look abroad for career opportunities. Experts stressed that job aspirants must verify recruitment agencies and contracts thoroughly, as fraudulent networks are known to exploit job seekers in high-demand markets. The government reaffirmed its priority on protecting Indian citizens overseas while monitoring the evolving situation.



PM Modi launches PM-SETU, felicitates ITI toppers

Guwahati: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today presided over the Kaushal Deekshant Samaroh at Vignyan Bhawan, felicitating 46 All India ITI toppers and unveiling PM-SETU (Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs), a ₹60,000 crore scheme aimed at transforming 1,000 government ITIs into modern, industry-aligned institutions. The event also marked the virtual inauguration of 1,200 Vocational Skill Labs across 400 Navodaya Vidyalayas and 200 Eklavya Model Residential Schools in 34 states and UTs.

PM-SETU will follow a hub-and-spoke model, with 200 hub ITIs linked to 800 spoke ITIs, equipped with advanced infrastructure, innovation centres, production units, and placement services. Fifteen clusters,



including Guwahati, have been identified nationwide as centres of excellence for skill development, offering industry-relevant training in sectors such as IT, automotive, electronics, agriculture, logistics, BFSI, and tourism. Guwahati is poised to benefit significantly from this initiative. Local businesses, especially in manufacturing, IT, and logistics, are expected to gain access to a skilled talent pool, enhancing operational efficiency and supporting

regional industrial growth. Early exposure to vocational skills will also enable students to align education with market demands, strengthening Guwahati's workforce readiness.

Addressing the audience, PM Modi emphasized that ITIs are "workshops of an Atmanirbhar Bharat," while Skill Development Minister Shri Jayant Chaudhary highlighted the government's commitment to making India's youth self-reliant and globally competitive.

Festive season sparks healthy shift: Soha promotes almonds, fitness

Guwahati: With India entering its peak festive season, actor, author, and mother Soha Ali Khan has outlined her wellness guide, blending indulgence with health. Emphasizing mindful eating, Soha warns against arriving at parties hungry, which often leads to unhealthy snacking and overeating. Her go-to solution: carry a handful of California Almonds, a nutrient-rich snack providing fiber, vitamin E, and B12, which keeps hunger at bay and offers a healthy energy boost.

Soha also encourages integrating fresh fruits such as apples, oranges, chikoo, muskmelon, and grapes into daily routines. These fruits, rich in fiber and low in fat, aid digestion and prevent stomach discomfort amid festive feasts. She also suggests juices or smoothies topped with almonds as an alternative to



calorie-laden snacks. Staying active remains a cornerstone of her approach. Brisk walks, light stretches, or quick runs help burn extra calories while maintaining energy levels. Hydration is critical, with sufficient water intake helping control acidity from fried and

oily foods. In Guwahati, retailers report rising demand for nuts, fresh fruits, and low-calorie festive snacks. Consumers in the region are increasingly prioritizing wellness alongside traditional indulgence, reflecting a shift toward health-focused festive spending.

Mahindra Logistics strengthens Eastern India network with 4 lakh sq. ft. warehousing in Guwahati and Agartala

Mumbai: Mumbai: Mahindra Logistics Limited, one of India's largest integrated logistics providers, on Thursday unveiled over 4 lakh sq. ft. of Grade-A warehousing capacity in Eastern India, including North-East India's largest multi-client facility in Guwahati and a state-of-the-art facility in Agartala. The expansion is part of the company's 'Go-East' strategy, aimed at enhancing regional connectivity, operational capabilities, and integrated supply chain solutions. The Guwahati facility, spread across 3 lakh sq. ft., is strategically located near NH 17, just 11.7 km from Guwahati International Airport and 7.1 km from Mirza



Railway Station. It houses the region's first Community Center of Excellence, in partnership with the Logistics Skill Council, and is designed to serve key industrial clusters including Uparhali, Palasbari, and

Rampur Industrial Parks. From a Guwahati market perspective, the facility is expected to significantly boost warehousing efficiency, reduce supply chain lead times, and support industries such as FMCG,

e-commerce, pharmaceuticals, and retail, positioning the city as a pivotal logistics hub in the North-East. Meanwhile, the 1.3-lakh sq. ft. Agartala facility strengthens connectivity across Tripura, Mizoram, Meghalaya, and Manipur, while facilitating cross-border trade with Bangladesh. Hemant Sikka, MD & CEO, said the move "redefines logistics in Eastern India, expanding nationwide distribution to tier-II and tier-III cities and enhancing connectivity in remote locations." "With these launches, Mahindra Logistics plans to create over 2,000 jobs and deliver future-ready, integrated supply chain solutions across the region.

NPCI launches biometric payment authentication October 8

Mumbai: The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has announced the rollout of biometric authentication for digital payments beginning October 8, 2025. The initiative aims to enhance transaction security and user convenience across India's rapidly growing digital payment ecosystem.

The new system will allow users to authenticate UPI (Unified Payments Interface) transactions using biometric data such as fingerprint or facial recognition, integrated through Aadhaar-linked devices



and mobile applications. This move is expected to reduce reliance on PINs and passwords, streamlining the payment process while strengthening fraud prevention.

NPCI officials confirmed that the biometric feature will initially be available on select banking apps and merchant platforms, with phased expansion planned over the coming months.

Paytm Introduces Playback, India's First AI-Powered Rap Business

New Delhi: Paytm has unveiled "Playback," a first-of-its-kind AI-powered feature that transforms users' monthly spending data into personalized rap songs, marking a creative leap in financial technology and user engagement. The feature is currently in beta and available to select high-trans-

acting users on the Paytm app. Playback appears in the 'Balance & History' section of the app, where artificial intelligence analyzes a user's transaction history across categories such as shopping, food, travel, and utilities. It then generates custom rap lyrics that creatively narrate the user's spending habits



from the previous month. The feature is located in the 'Balance & History' section of the Paytm app. Once ac-

tivated, Playback uses artificial intelligence to analyze the user's transaction history across categories such as food, shopping, travel, utilities, and more. It then generates a unique rap song with lyrics tailored to the user's spending behavior, offering a fun and relatable way to reflect on financial habits.

A Paytm spokesperson explained, "Young Indians consume their world as content. With Playback, we're turning routine financial data into something entertaining and insightful. It's a new way to connect with users and help them understand their spending in a format they enjoy." To access Playback,

users must update to the latest version of the Paytm app. After navigating to the 'Balance & History' section, they can tap on the 'Paytm Playback' banner to initiate the experience. The AI processes the data securely and delivers a rap track that users can listen to, share with friends, or save for later.



India eyes textile export growth as MoS Pabitra Margherita opens 'Best of India' fair in Moscow

Guwahati: India is strengthening its global textile footprint with the inauguration of the "Best of India – Indian Apparels and Textile Fair" in Moscow by Minister of State Pabitra Margherita on October 1. Organised by the Handloom Export Promotion Council (HEPC), the three-day fair from October 1–3 is designed to boost Indian textile exports to Russia, enhance bilateral cooperation, and unlock opportunities in the wider CIS region.

Calling the initiative "a showcase of India's strength in handlooms



and textiles," Margherita said the event reflects Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh's vision of expanding exports

while highlighting Indian craftsmanship. On social media, he added, "This fair will deepen cooperation and open new gateways to CIS markets."Guwahati,

known for Assam's globally acclaimed muga and eri silks, views the Moscow fair as a major opportunity. Local traders believe the platform could help regional weavers secure greater access to Russia's growing demand for natural and sustainable fabrics, potentially boosting Assam's role in India's textile export story. During his Moscow visit, Margherita also engaged with the Indian diaspora and marked Mahatma Gandhi's 156th birth anniversary, linking Gandhian ideals with government initiatives like Swachh Bharat and Atmanirbhar Bharat.

NBFCs, Real Estate Salaries Rising 2026

New Delhi: India Inc. is projected to witness a 9% average salary increase in 2026, with non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and the real estate sector expected to lead the growth with double-digit hikes, according to Aon's Annual Salary Increase and Turnover Survey 2025–26.

The study, which analyzed data from over 1,060 companies across 45 industries, indicates that NBFCs are likely to offer an average salary increase of 10%, while the real estate and infrastructure sector is projected to

reach 10.9%—the highest among all sectors surveyed. This marks a slight uptick from the 8.9% average increase recorded in 2025, despite global economic headwinds. Aon attributes the resilience of India's salary growth to strong domestic consumption, sustained investment activity, and supportive government policies. Roopank Chaudhary, Partner and Rewards Consulting Leader at Aon India, noted that organizations are adopting strategic pay decisions to retain critical talent and align compensation.

Rupee Drops to 88.78

Mumbai: The Indian rupee settled 4 paise lower at 88.78 against the US dollar on Tuesday, weighed down by persistent foreign fund outflows and cautious investor sentiment ahead of key global economic data releases. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 88.72 and traded in a narrow range throughout the session, touching an intraday low of 88.81 before closing at 88.78, down from its previous close of 88.74.

Market participants attributed the slight depreciation to dollar demand from importers and subdued risk appetite in emerging markets. The US dollar index remained firm near 106.8 levels, supported by expectations of prolonged higher interest rates by the Federal Reserve.

Meanwhile, Brent crude futures hovered around \$89 per barrel, adding pressure on India's trade deficit outlook and limiting rupee gains. Traders also remained cautious ahead of the release of US non-farm payroll data and inflation figures later this week, which could influence future rate decisions. On the domestic front, equity markets ended mixed, with the BSE Sensex rising 112 points to close at 66,420, while the NSE Nifty slipped marginally by 18 points.

Nissan Tekton set to shake up India's C-SUV market ahead of 2026 launch

Gurugram: Nissan Motor India has provided an early glimpse of its upcoming C-SUV, the All-New Tekton, slated for launch in 2026. Drawing design cues from the iconic Nissan Patrol, the Tekton is positioned as a premium, performance-driven vehicle, blending bold aesthetics with advanced technology. The name "Tekton," derived from Greek meaning "craftsman" or "architect," underscores Nissan's focus on precision engineering and innovation for modern Indian consumers.

As the second product under Nissan's "One Car, One World" strategy, the Tekton will be manufactured at the Chennai



plant in collaboration with Renault, serving both domestic demand and select export markets. Notable design elements include a muscular stance, C-shaped headlamps, sculpted bonnet, and a rear lightbar with dynamic tail-lamps. The front doors feature subtle mountain-inspired motifs, reflecting the brand's atten-

tion to detail and premium craftsmanship.

According to Saurabh Vatsa, Managing Director of Nissan India, the Tekton is central to Nissan's growth strategy, expected to strengthen the brand's market presence and set new benchmarks in India's competitive C-SUV segment.

Mahindra unveils new Bolero Range with bold new design, upgraded interiors, and modern features

Guwahati: Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., India's leading SUV manufacturer, has introduced the New Bolero range. The price for the new Bolero starts at ₹7.99 Lakh (ex-showroom), and the newly introduced top-end B8 variant is priced at ₹9.69 Lakh (ex-showroom). The new Bolero Neo starts at ₹8.49 Lakh (ex-showroom), with the new top-end variant N11 at ₹9.99 Lakh (ex-showroom). With this launch, the Bolero range continues to uphold its iconic appeal with refined aesthetics, enhanced



comfort, and modern features. With a legacy of 25 years and over 16 lakh satisfied customers, the Bolero remains a versatile SUV. It excels at navigating diverse terrains, from bustling city streets to rugged rural landscapes, offering exceptional adaptability and value. Nalinikanth Gollagunta, Chief Executive Officer – Au-

tomotive Division, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., said, "The Bolero has stood the test of time, earning its place as one of India's most versatile and tough SUVs for over 25 years." The New Bolero blends bold design, modern features, and enhanced comfort while staying true to its authentic toughness. With a new bold grille, fog lamps, and diamond-cut alloy wheels, the Bolero stands as India's tough and reliable SUV. New colour option includes Stealth Black, along with existing Diamond White, DSAT Sil-

World Bank Ups India Growth Forecast 2026

New Delhi: The World Bank has revised India's GDP growth projection for the fiscal year 2025–26 (FY26) upward to 6.5%, up from its earlier estimate of 6.3%, citing resilient domestic consumption, improved agricultural output, and rising rural wages. The update was published in the World Bank's South Asia Development Update released Tuesday.

India is expected to remain the fastest-growing major economy globally, supported by robust consumer demand and favorable domestic conditions. The report highlights that government reforms—particularly the simplification

of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) structure—have contributed to economic activity by reducing compliance burdens and improving tax efficiency.

The World Bank also noted that inflation is expected to remain within the Reserve Bank of India's target range, further supporting growth. However, the outlook for FY2026–27 has been revised downward to 6.3%, primarily due to the imposition of 50% tariffs on nearly three-quarters of India's goods exports to the United States. These tariffs are projected to impact trade volumes and reduce export competitiveness.

Gold Futures Hit ₹1.2 Lakh

Mumbai: Gold futures on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) climbed ₹651 on Tuesday to reach an all-time high of ₹1,20,900 per 10 grams, driven by heightened global economic uncertainty and a renewed rush toward safe-haven assets. The surge reflects growing investor anxiety over geopolitical tensions, volatile equity markets, and concerns surrounding inflationary pressures in major economies. Analysts noted that the recent spike in gold prices



Medanta harnesses digital innovation for 3-minute self-breast exam to boost early detection

Mumbai: Medanta – The Medicity, India’s Best Private Hospital for six consecutive years as per Newsweek, has rolled out a technology-driven awareness initiative promoting a three-minute self-breast examination. Part of its “Jaanta Hai Medanta” campaign, the initiative leverages digital platforms to educate women on early detection of breast cancer, combining innovation with preventive

healthcare. The educational video features Dr. Kanchan Kaur, Senior Director, Breast Cancer at Medanta, demonstrating a simple three-step self-exam procedure to be performed monthly, ideally 2–3 days after menstruation. The method involves examining the breast and armpit with light pressure in circular and up-and-down motions while checking for lumps, skin changes, or nipple deformities. “Digital

outreach and self-exams empower women to monitor their health, enabling early intervention and better treatment outcomes,” Dr. Kaur said.

The campaign is spurring interest in tech-enabled preventive healthcare. Local clinics report increasing inquiries for screenings, while wellness centers and pharmacies are integrating digital awareness campaigns and early-detection services. The response re-

flects a growing appetite for innovative healthcare solutions in the region and highlights the potential for technology to expand preventive care access. With breast cancer being the most common cancer among Indian women, Medanta’s initiative demonstrates how innovation and technology can drive life-saving awareness and strengthen consumer engagement in preventive healthcare.

Tata Capital IPO 74% Subscribed

Mumbai: The initial public offering (IPO) of Tata Capital Ltd. was subscribed 74% by the end of Day 2, reflecting steady investor demand across categories. The ₹20,000 crore public issue, one of the largest in the financial services sector this year, opened for subscription on October 6 and will close on October 9. According to data available from the National Stock Exchange (NSE), the retail individual investor (RII) portion was subscribed 1.12 times, while the non-institutional investor (NII) category saw 68% subscription. Qualified institutional buyers (QIBs), who typically invest closer to the final day, have subscribed to 42% of their allotted quota so far.

TVS Motor launches advanced Raider 125cc with boost mode, dual disc brakes and GTT

Guwahati: TVS Motor Company on Monday launched the most advanced variant of its popular Raider 125cc motorcycle, introducing a suite of segment-first features aimed at enhancing performance, safety, and rider experience.

The new TVS Raider boasts “Boost Mode” powered by iGO Assist technology, delivering class-leading torque of 11.75 Nm @ 6,000 RPM. It also features First-in-Segment Dual Disc Brakes with ABS for superior stopping power and Glide Through Technology (GTT) for seamless low-speed maneuverability. A revised tyre configuration—90/90-17 front and



110/80-17 rear—improves grip, cornering, and handling on both smooth and uneven roads. Additional features include a Follow Me Headlamp and two connected display options: a vibrant TFT with 99+ features or a reverse LCD with 85+ features.

Commenting on the launch, Mr. Aniruddha Haladar, Senior VP, TVS Motor Company, said, “The New TVS Raider raises

the ‘wicked’ bar yet again, offering thrilling performance, top-notch safety, and unmatched ease. We remain committed to creating motorcycles that our customers are proud to own.” In Guwahati, TVS dealerships report strong interest from young urban riders seeking high-performance yet city-friendly motorcycles. Early bookings indicate a growing preference for connected, stylish, and tech-enabled bikes that combine agility with daily usability. The new TVS Raider is priced at ₹95,600 (TFT DD) and ₹93,800 (SXC DD, Ex-showroom Delhi) and will be available across all TVS outlets starting this month.

Deepika joins Nykaa, elevates beauty branding



Guwahati: Nykaa has roped in Bollywood superstar Deepika Padukone as its brand ambassador, launching its first campaign with her titled “Sirf Bahar Jaane Ke Liye Kaun Tayaar Hota Hai? Tum Hi Ho Nykaa!”. The campaign positions beauty as an everyday ritual rather than an occasional indulgence, with Deepika encouraging women to prioritize self-expression and self-care.

Nykaa, India’s leading beauty and lifestyle platform, has transformed from a retail brand to a movement, empowering over 45 million consumers with global and home-grown products, expert guidance, and immersive experiences. Anchit Nayar, Executive Director & CEO of Nykaa Beauty, said, “Deepika’s authenticity and versatility align with our vision to make beauty

borderless, inclusive, and accessible, strengthening our mission to engage consumers across generations.” In Guwahati, the partnership is expected to drive significant market traction. Retailers in key shopping hubs reported heightened consumer interest in Nykaa’s products following the campaign launch, particularly in skincare and makeup segments. Shoppers noted that Deepika’s message of choosing oneself resonated strongly, prompting more frequent purchases and experimentation with new beauty routines. Deepika’s collaboration will extend to Nykaa’s major initiatives, including the Pink Friday Sale, Nykaaland, and the Best in Beauty Awards, reinforcing the brand’s focus on everyday empowerment and redefining beauty on personal terms.

Udhyam Vyapaar’s Istri Project drives Rs 100 crore income growth for street ironing vendors nationwide

Agartala: Udhyam Vyapaar’s flagship initiative, The Istri Project, has achieved a landmark milestone, enabling street ironing vendors across India to collectively increase their income by ₹100 crore as of September 2025. The project helps vendors transition from traditional coal-based iron boxes to LPG-powered ones at subsidised rates, reducing fuel costs by nearly 50% and boosting productivity by up to two hours daily. Since its inception, the project has scaled from one city to five, empowering over 8,000 ironing vendors to adopt cleaner, more efficient technology.



Participants have seen an average income uplift of 25%, while the program has cut over 6,000 tons of CO₂ emissions annually. “This milestone is a proud moment for Udhyam and the thousands of nano-entrepreneurs who embraced

change. It highlights how localized livelihood solutions can create national-scale economic and environmental impact,” said Krishnan Ranganathan, Co-Founder, Udhyam Learning Foundation. In Agartala, the initiative has

strengthened the local ironing vendor ecosystem, with vendors reporting faster service, higher customer volumes, and improved earnings. The adoption of LPG irons has also enhanced working conditions, making street-side ironing safer and more sustainable in the city’s busy markets. Cyril Joseph, Program Head, said the success belongs to the vendors who reimaged their businesses. Udhyam Vyapaar now aims to make India coal-iron-free within a decade, calling for support from government, CSR, and social impact partners.

Vodafone Idea soars 42% since September, hits 8-month high

Mumbai: Vodafone Idea share price today moved higher by 8 per cent to hit an eight-month high of ₹9.2 on the BSE in Tuesday’s intraday trade, amid heavy volumes. The stock price of the telecom services provider is quoting at its highest level since February 10, 2025. Since the start of September 2025, the market price of Vodafone Idea has recovered by 42 per cent from the level low of ₹6.12 on August 14, 2025. The stock had hit a 52-week high of ₹10.48 on

January 20, 2025. At 1:26 PM, Vodafone Idea shares were trading 7 per cent higher at ₹9.05 on the BSE. As many as 1,036 million equity shares of the company have changed hands on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and BSE.

The Supreme Court deferred the hearing of a plea filed by telecom major Vodafone Idea challenging a demand of ₹9,450 crore raised by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) towards adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues to October 13.



Australia names India series squads

Melbourne: Cricket Australia has announced its squads for the upcoming white-ball series against India, featuring three One Day Internationals (ODIs) and the first two matches of a five-game T20I series. The series begins on October 19 in Perth and marks a key phase in Australia's preparation for the 2027 ODI World Cup and the 2026 T20 World Cup.

In the ODI squad, Mitchell Starc returns after missing the South Africa tour due to workload management. Matthew Renshaw has been recalled following strong domestic performances. Mitchell Owen and Matthew Short are also back after recovering from injuries. Mitchell Marsh will captain the ODI side in the absence of Pat Cummins, who is recovering from lumbar stress. Alex Carey will miss the first ODI in Perth to play in the Sheffield Shield, with Josh Inglis expected to take over wicketkeeping duties.

The ODI squad includes: Mitchell Marsh (captain), Xavier Bartlett, Alex Carey, Cooper Connolly, Ben Dwarshuis, Nathan Ellis, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Mitchell Owen, Matthew Renshaw, Matthew Short, Mitchell Starc, and Adam Zampa. The ODI matches will be played on October 19.

India near innings win as Windies collapse 66/5

India dominate second Test as Windies trail by 372 with five down

Ahmedabad: Team India tightened its grip on the second Test against West Indies, moving within striking distance of an innings victory after reducing the hosts to 66/5 in their second innings. The dramatic collapse came late on Day 3, following India's commanding first-innings performance.

After posting a mammoth total of 438, powered by centuries from Rohit Sharma and Yashasvi Jaiswal, India's bowlers returned with venom. Mohammed Siraj and Ravindra Jadeja led the charge, dismantling the West Indies top order with disciplined line and

Mbappe treated for minor issue at France

Paris: Kylian Mbappe is receiving treatment for a "small niggle" in his right ankle after meeting up with his international team-mates ahead of the latest round of 2026 World Cup qualifiers, France coach Didier Deschamps said Monday.

The France captain sustained the knock at the end of Real Madrid's 3-1 La Liga victory over Villarreal on Saturday, casting doubts over his availability to the national team for their upcoming qualifying matches against Azerbaijan and Iceland. "I spoke with Kylian, he had a small niggle but it's not serious, otherwise he wouldn't be here today," Deschamps told reporters at the French team's Clairefontaine base near Paris. "We will take the time with the medical staff to assess the situation and then



see how it develops."

Liverpool defender Ibrahima Konate also underwent tests, after coming off injured in the Reds' 2-1 defeat at Chelsea on Saturday. Deschamps added, "We'll assess his condition day by day. The priority is his long-term health and readiness for key matches." Mbappe has not commented publicly on the injury but was seen in good spirits during recovery sessions. Fans and analysts alike are hopeful that the setback will not affect his momentum as France prepares for a critical phase in its Nations League campaign.

FIFA chief defends Israel stance amid rising suspension calls

New Delhi: Facing growing global calls to suspend Israeli teams from soccer, FIFA President Gianni Infantino said that the governing body must promote peace and unity and cannot solve political issues.

In a febrile period for soccer politics, Infantino led a meeting of FIFA's ruling council in Zurich, which did not have Israel formally on the agenda before the 2026



World Cup qualifying games resume next week.

He later met privately at FIFA headquarters with Jibril Rajoub, the leader of the Palestinian soccer federation, and praised his organisation "for their resili-

Jamaica's Oblique Seville: Usain Bolt's worthy sprint heir

Kingston: Jamaican sprinter Oblique Seville has officially stepped into the global spotlight, earning recognition as the worthy heir to Usain Bolt's sprinting legacy after clinching gold in the men's 100m final at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo. Seville clocked a blistering 9.77 seconds, defeating top contenders including American Noah Lyles and fellow Jamaican Kishane Thompson, who finished second with 9.82 seconds.

The victory marked Jamaica's first gold in the men's 100m at a global event since Bolt's triumph at the 2016 Rio Olympics, ending an eight-year drought and signaling a revival of Jamaican male sprint dominance. Seville's journey began in rural Jamaica, where his natural



speed was evident from a young age. He rose through the ranks at Calabar High School and trained under Glen Mills, the legendary coach who also mentored Bolt. Despite setbacks in previous championships—including fourth-place finishes in 2022 and 2023—Seville's perseverance paid off in Tokyo. "I was there to win the race," Seville said

in a post-race interview. "I came into the race not as the favorite, but none of it was getting to me. Running is no pressure for me". The win also fulfilled a prediction made by Usain Bolt, who had forecasted a Jamaican one-two finish. Unknown to Seville at the time, Bolt was present in the stands, witnessing the rise of his successor.

Nishad, Simran strike gold; India rank fourth



New Delhi: India delivered a commendable performance at the World Para Athletics Championships, securing a fourth-place finish overall, powered by gold medal victories from Nishad Kumar and Simran Sharma in their respective events.

Nishad Kumar clinched gold in the men's T47 high jump category, clearing a height of 2.06 meters and reaffirming his status as one of India's top para-athletes. Simran Sharma added to the medal tally with a stunning win in the women's T12 100-meter sprint, clocking a personal best that left her competitors trailing.

India's contingent earned multiple podium finishes across track and field disciplines, including silver and bronze medals in jav-

elin, shot put, and relay events. The team's overall performance placed them fourth in the global rankings, behind China, Brazil, and the United States. Officials from the Paralympic Committee of India praised the athletes for their resilience and preparation, noting that the results reflect years of investment in para-sports infrastructure and training. The championship, held in Paris, saw participation from over 100 countries and served as a key qualifier for the upcoming 2026 Paralympic Games.

India's para-athletes continue to inspire with their grit and determination, and the latest results mark a significant step forward in the country's journey toward inclusive sporting excellence.



length. The hosts, trailing by 372 runs, struggled to build partnerships and lost wickets at regular intervals.

West Indies now face an uphill battle to avoid an innings defeat, with only

five wickets remaining and a daunting deficit still to overcome. India's bowlers are expected to wrap up the match early on Day 4, sealing a comprehensive series win. The Test series has showcased India's

dominance in both batting and bowling departments, while West Indies continue to search for consistency and resilience under pressure.

With five wickets remaining and two full days of play left, India is poised to wrap up the match swiftly on Day 4. The bowling unit, led by Siraj, Jadeja, and Jasprit Bumrah, has consistently troubled the West Indies batters throughout the series. This performance underscores India's growing depth and consistency in overseas conditions, while West Indies continue to struggle with form and resilience.